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S. Bond  
5/15/03

DOCKET NO. 9545-013-27

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

IN RE APPLICATION OF: Aaron ABBOTT, et al.

ART UNIT: 2142

SERIAL NO.: 09/220,724

EXAMINER: PRIETO, B.

FILING DATE: December 24, 1998

FOR: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR HIERARCHICAL SOFTWARE  
DISTRIBUTION PACKAGES

**RECEIVED**

**AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

MAY 14 2003

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

Technology Center 2100

SIR:

In reply to the Office Action dated July 12, 2002, Applicants submit the following  
Amendment and Remarks.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend Claims 1, 8, and 9 as follows:

*Amended*

1. (Twice Amended) Apparatus for hierarchical software distribution allowing distribution of a software package comprising at least a first and second package to a plurality of target nodes, wherein the contents of said first and second package are determined by a distribution server before the contents are distributed without the plurality of target nodes initiating the distribution, said apparatus comprising:

a distribution node for transmitting packages of software;  
a first branch node in communication with said distribution node, said first branch node being arranged to receive said software package from said distribution node;